

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

19 JULY 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

a. Diem last night announced that further steps would be taken to carry out last month's agreement with the Buddhists.

b. This conciliatory gesture was taken only after considerable prodding from Ambassador Nolting. It should help produce at least a temporary lull, while the Buddhists see how the government lives up to its promises.

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2. Cuba-USSR

a. With the outlook doubtful for future TU-114 flights to Cuba via Conakry, the Soviets seem to be trying their luck elsewhere.

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(Cont'd)

c. Another shipload of Soviet military equipment, the fifth since last October, was delivered to Cuba Tuesday by the Metallurg Bardin.

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3. Syria

a. It is still not clear what happened yesterday.

b. The Baath regime is trying to give the impression that Nasir was behind the army "mutiny"

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but the very absence of clarification leads us to suspect that the Baath is in fact trying to conceal some sort of split in its own ranks.

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c. In any case, the public line it is taking will not sit well with Nasir and may finish off the unity talks now in progress.

d. Damascus is not yet completely quiet and late press reports state that the curfew is again in effect.

NOTES

- A. Laos The US military attache visited the Plaine des Jarres yesterday and found that the Pathet Lao "attack" of the previous night was in fact a false alarm. The Communists laid down the "heaviest and most concentrated barrage" of the past two months, but no ground changed hands and the situation was quiet. Signs of unusual activity on the Communist side continue to accumulate, however.
- B. Greece The way now seems paved for Karamanlis' eventual return to power. He will be the principal beneficiary of an open split in the main (centrist) opposition party. He also stands to gain from the scheduling of new elections for October. A prolonged postponement of elections, previously rumored, would probably have weakened his hold on his own party.
- C. Iran The dissident mullahs who sparked demonstrations early last month are said to be planning some new anti-government action [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] The authorities are alert to the possibility and can probably keep the lid on the situation. 50X1
- D. Malaysia The British seem determined to go ahead with plans to throw Indonesian consular officials out of North Borneo. They have convinced themselves that failure to act would only encourage Sukarno to take an even harder line on Malaysia. Ambassadors Bruce and Jones are trying to persuade them that the expulsion of these officials would not be a helpful step, especially just before the Manila conference is scheduled to open.

(Cont'd)

- E. South Korea The [] ex-security chief Kim Chong-pil will probably soon be on his way back to a position of power in the Korean military junta. []
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[] he may be passing through the US en route next week.
- F. Bolivia The government's difficulties with the tin miners have taken another turn for the worst. President Paz told Ambassador Stephansky on Monday that miner unrest is at the point where a general strike is a definite possibility. He thinks that such a strike would not last long but concedes that if it were to stretch out for more than a month it might lead to civil war.
- G. West Germany On 12 July, the cabinet approved a draft tax reform law which would stimulate West German exports. German foreign exchange surpluses could thus again become important in US balance-of-payments difficulties. Although a Finance Ministry official says the new tax measure is unlikely to become effective before 1966, parliamentary consideration will begin this fall.

LATE NOTE

South Vietnam The initial Buddhist reaction to Diem's overture was to reject an immediate truce. The press this morning says that Buddhist leaders sent a note to Diem in which they vowed to continue their demonstrations until the government meets all of their demands.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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